ISSUE BRIEF

Technical Guidance for Integrating Land Tenure into Nationally Determined Contributions

October 2025

Landesa

Technical Guidance for Integrating Land Tenure into Nationally Determined Contributions

This resource offers technical guidance to governments and their counterparts on integrating land tenure into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and their implementation.

Key messages:

Land tenure drives effective and efficient climate action.
Integrating secure, gender-equitable, and inclusive land tenure into the NDCs and their implementation provides a cost-effective strategy that boosts climate mitigation and adaptation, mitigates risks like conflict and displacement, and advances social, economic, and environmental benefits.

Land tenure offers an opportunity to strengthen NDCs and their implementation.
Given that countries rely on land-based actions to meet their climate goals, strengthening gender-equitable and inclusive land tenure acts as a force multiplier and presents a crucial opportunity to advance climate action.

Land tenure integration is possible and guidance is available.
This resource outlines a suggested process, helpful resources, and template language to consider for revising and implementing NDCs, thereby providing a pathway for leveraging the power of land tenure to advance human security and climate change solutions such as sustainable land-based investments, nature-based solutions, and renewable energy.

Acknowledgements

Contents

The case for land tenure in the NDCs

Land tenure[i] underpins socio-economic relations surrounding natural resource use, drives decisions around land use, and can cultivate pathways to empowerment, dignity, and opportunity.[1] **By integrating and strengthening gender-equitable and inclusive land tenure security in the context of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), countries can**:

✓ **Advance cost-effective climate change mitigation.** Recognizing and protecting land rights, especially for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, creates an enabling environment and incentives that can lead to sustainable land management and reduced deforestation and forest degradation, given the knowledge, connections, and role of these groups as effective stewards of the land.[2,3,4,5] Securing land and territorial rights has been shown to be one of the most cost-effective ways of mitigating climate change and achieving conservation benefits.[6,7,8] When people have more secure tenure and land rights, they are more likely to make long-term investments in their land and natural resources, which can enhance carbon storage through practices such as regenerative agriculture, extended rotation forestry, conservation, restoration, carbon offset projects, and other nature-based solutions.[9,10,11] Land tenure also enables and can be a core component of investments in conditional incentive-based schemes such as payments for ecosystem services.[12] Embedding land tenure further offers an opportunity for ensuring a just transition to renewable energy.[13]

✓ **Enable pathways toward climate change adaptation and investment**. Climate change-exacerbated disasters can disproportionately affect populations that are land insecure.[14] Secure land tenure can help reduce vulnerabilities by encouraging long-term land, community, and housing investments that promote adaptation.[15] Tenure secure individuals and communities experience increased access to financial resources such as loans and grants and are more likely to establish agroforestry systems, plant windbreaks, upgrade their homes and local infrastructure, and manage natural resources in ways that increase their resilience to flooding, droughts, and extreme weather.[16] These nature-based solutions are cost-effective ways to address risks and curb damage.[17] Securing land tenure can also uphold the power and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to implement climate-smart agriculture and ecosystem restoration. Strengthening tenure security is a significant factor contributing to the adoption of soil and water conservation measures in croplands, which can lead to enhanced productivity and income, enabling rural communities to be better equipped to navigate the impacts of climate change.[18] Secure land tenure can also contribute to disaster risk management and access to insurance and climate finance.[19,20]

---

[i] **Land tenure** refers to the relationship between people and natural resources (and can be legally or customarily defined; can be individual or collective; and can involve the use, control, or transfer of land, as well as responsibilities and restraints). Land tenure systems determine who can use what resources for how long, and under what conditions. **Land rights** refer to the specific allocation or recognized claims of rights to land. Land rights are the entitlements to land, whereas land tenure is the framework that grants and regulates those entitlements. ([FAO, 2002](#))

✓ **Guard against risks such as displacement and conflict, advance gender equity and social inclusion, and enhance environmental and economic outcomes.** Insecure land tenure can make people and land susceptible to displacement and exploitation.[21] If the land tenure context is ignored, NDCs' mitigation interventions, such as renewable energy or carbon offset initiatives, can lead to harmful land acquisition and evictions or displacements that heighten conflict, and pose a threat to the long-term viability of such initiatives.[22,23] By elevating the role of land tenure in the NDCs, countries can mitigate these risks, create an enabling environment for responsible investments, and provide a pathway for more gender-equitable and inclusive environmental governance processes. In turn, equitable land tenure and governance can enhance climate action outcomes and related ambitions such as land degradation neutrality[24]—and can work to sustain gender-inclusive peace and human security.[25]

Status of land tenure in NDCs

Landesa's review of 170 NDCs from June-August of 2025 revealed:

- While most countries rely heavily on land to meet their climate targets (such as achieving nature-based mitigation, sustainable agriculture emission reductions, or renewable energy expansion), there is a gap for many in formally recognizing and safeguarding the land rights of the people who depend on that land. If the land tenure context is not considered, climate interventions may pose risks such as limited local buy-in impacting the effectiveness of land-based climate solutions, displacement, and conflict. Closing this gap represents an opportunity to leverage secure land tenure as a solution for climate action.

- Women's land rights tend not to be meaningfully or explicitly integrated into the NDCs, thereby missing an opportunity to address gender inequality and inclusive climate action.

- A lack of secure tenure and a lack of safeguards such as Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) or grievance mechanisms associated with land-based climate interventions (such as renewable energy or carbon markets) pose significant risk to climate mitigation and people's wellbeing.

- Land tenure mentions in NDCs often frame the discussion around vulnerabilities and drivers of degradation, rather than framing tenure as a key part of a solution.

- There tends to be stronger integration of land tenure considerations by countries from Non-Annex I countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

- Where NDCs do recognize land rights, few include indicators to track progress on land tenure security protections or the role of tenure security in advancing climate action.

Quantitative NDC results

<28% mention land tenure

<13% commit to strengthening tenure

<12% mention gender-equitable land rights

<1% include indicators related to land tenure

Only 10% of NDCs with land-based goals have tenure safeguards, despite 160 NDCs having nature-based mitigation or carbon market goals and all 170 NDCs having renewable energy expansion goals
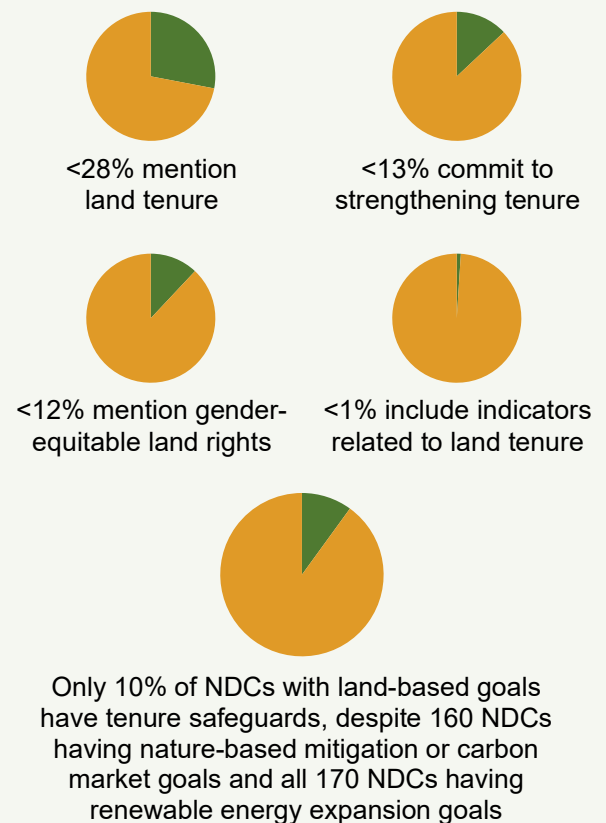
How to build land tenure into an NDC and its implementation

Guidance for NDC drafters

Process-related recommendations:

Incorporate public participation into NDC drafting. Collaborate with diverse stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth, to ensure that updated NDC commitments, including any related to land tenure, reflect the realities of climate change.

Review the existing NDC to determine if land tenure considerations are already built in. Review for language on land use planning, land administration, and nature-based mitigation efforts to determine if these activities include an obligation to strengthen tenure or offer tenure-related safeguards for land stewards. It is important to consider efforts related to renewable energy expansion, carbon offsets, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) sector commitments. Such climate interventions without an explicit attention to tenure and related land rights, can undermine ecosystem stewardship, reduce incentives for conservation, contribute to emissions, and violate people's rights.

Review existing technical guides and resources that outline internationally recognized standards for land tenure and rights applicable to NDCs and other frameworks. Assess the NDC's alignment and incorporation of the standards. See Appendix A.

Elements to consider for integration:

Strengthen laws governing land tenure and the laws' on-the-ground implementation. Analyze the policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks (such as land policies, land registration, and family law) that determine ownership, use, and decision-making rights to land and related resources, as well as how those rights are governed and managed. Identify implementation gaps and regions of insecure tenure that may create unnecessary costs and jeopardize climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. Recognize that implementation gaps may also result from social norms that limit people's ability to exercise legal rights.

Recognize and enforce land tenure rights of local communities. Support legal recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' land rights, whether individual or community-based tenure arrangements, including formalizing customary land holdings to ensure that key environmental stewards, such as Indigenous Peoples, have secure rights to their land. Update land registries where registration and adjudication of tenure rights have already occurred and digitize updated land records to create positive incentives for landowners to invest in mitigation and adaptation measures.

Include tangible commitments and indictors regarding land tenure in the NDC. Select from template language included in this brief to increase accountability and efficacy of land tenure interventions to increase community investments in climate action. Ensure that the NDC data

management plan explores options for integrating global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators related to land governance into the NDC reporting process to streamline reporting and reduce duplicative reporting streams. Establish technical protocols for data sharing that incorporate global SDG indicators (such as land tenure security indicators) into national data platforms. The process may include standardizing data formats, cross-referencing SDGs and NDC indicators, and developing databases accessible across ministries (e.g., environment, land, and planning departments).

Guidance for NDC implementers

Empower rural populations with the governance and management rights they need to best steward their land and resources.

- Advance participatory sustainable land use planning processes as a component of the land rights formalization process. Harmonize land use planning at the national, regional, and community levels (with relevant government institutions) so that local people and customary land-owning communities are well equipped to identify and sustainably manage resources important for achieving climate goals.

- Uphold and strengthen existing tenure and governance arrangements for Indigenous and local community-based resource management—such as community forestry, community protected areas, and community fisheries—which can significantly contribute to mitigating climate change and serve as effective mechanisms for implementing adaptive measures.

Consider the full scope of applicable national policy and legal frameworks to strengthen NDC implementation.

- Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation considerations into land-based investment decision-making processes (e.g., climate risk and impact assessments) to reduce risks.[26]

- Incorporate land tenure considerations in renewable energy and carbon market programs, standards, national planning processes, policies, and regulatory frameworks concerning renewable energy and carbon markets to reduce risk and increase profitability. Establish protections for land and resource rights, as well as other considerations linked to land and carbon reduction (e.g., compatibility with human, land, and resource rights, and gender equity in those rights; respect for Indigenous self-determination and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities; and inclusion and equity in benefit sharing). Steps entail: i) identifying all stakeholders affected and ensuring their full and meaningful participation and consent; ii) recognizing and respecting customary and statutory rights; iii) obtaining and maintaining FPIC, and the establishment of grievance mechanisms; iv) assessing and monitoring direct and indirect costs, benefits, and risks; and v) identifying and maintaining High Conservation Value areas.

- Gather data to guide future policy and assess the impact of improved land tenure security on investments in climate action and NDC targets. Data should represent the experiences, conditions, and impacts for women, men, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized groups.

Ensure equitable tenure processes and outcomes to minimize conflict and displacement.

- Protect against violations of human rights, and particularly against discrimination based on gender or negative impacts on women's rights or the rights of other marginalized groups.

- Avoid or, if not possible, minimize involuntary resettlement (e.g., by changing project designs) and—when vital for a public purpose—ensure involuntary resettlement is undertaken in accordance with principles set out in guidance including the IFC Performance Standards (see Performance Standard 5 and the accompanying Good Practice Handbook).

- Regarding territorial rights, respect cultural sites, enforce Indigenous Peoples' right to FPIC, and recognize formal and customary land tenure and resource rights.

- Recognize that equality between individuals may require acknowledging differences between individuals and taking positive action to promote equitable tenure rights and access to land, fisheries, and forests for all women, men, youth, and vulnerable and traditionally marginalized people within the national context.

Template language and indicators for including land tenure in NDCs

Targets and Commitments

Setting time-bound and measurable goals enhances clarity and commitment. Targets such as these could appear in the "mitigation" or "adaptation" sections of an NDC and reflect what the government aims to achieve.

- "Strengthen tenure security and the recognition of land rights for all legitimate land users, including women, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, as a foundation for climate resilience and low-emissions development."

- "Integrate gender-responsive land tenure reforms and inclusive governance into adaptation and mitigation strategies, ensuring at least 50% women's participation in decision-making bodies related to land use and climate action."

- "Recognize and protect Indigenous and community land and resource rights as a climate solution, particularly in forests, wetlands, peatlands, rangelands, and coastal ecosystems."

- "Expand legal recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' customary tenure systems as a mitigation and adaptation strategy."

Policy Actions

The policy actions listed below can help countries identify and define entry points for tenure-based implementation. These types of actions may appear in the "measures," "implementation," or "enabling environment" sections of an NDC.

Legal and Institutional Reform

- Finalize (or develop or update) and implement national land policies that recognize and protect land rights, including where appropriate, customary, collective, and community tenure systems.

- Align land policies with climate goals by integrating tenure security into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and land use strategies.

- Strengthen land administration institutions and processes, including by creating more accessible and accountable land registries and cadasters, and providing attention to communal, Indigenous, and women's land rights, as appropriate.

- Strengthen national Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) laws to include robust assessments of land tenure conditions.

Safeguards and Governance in Climate Action

- Apply FPIC and gender-equitable and inclusive benefit-sharing mechanisms to all carbon market and renewable energy projects that may affect Indigenous Peoples—and extend best practices around informed consultation and participation to local

communities to safeguard land rights, avoid conflict, and promote effective climate action.

- Conduct land tenure risk assessments for land-based mitigation and adaptation programs (e.g., REDD+, renewable energy siting, and reforestation).
- Ensure land-related climate actions are governed in an inclusive, participatory manner that meaningfully involves marginalized groups.

Tenure-Responsive Climate Action

- Integrate activities to secure land tenure into climate resilience programs such as sustainable agriculture, agroecology, and ecosystem restoration (e.g., strengthening local and community governance, participatory mapping and land registration, and land use planning in the context of wetland restoration and management).[27]
- Promote community-based natural resource management for forests, wetlands, rangelands, peatlands, and coastal zones.
- Recognize and support land tenure as an enabling condition for nature-based solutions, including through community co-management of protected areas.
- Integrate climate vulnerability assessments into land use planning.
- Identify and secure designated areas for climate-resilient relocation or land banking to support climate-displaced communities.
- Recognize that tenure-responsive climate action can mitigate potential conflict and address historical inequalities in land access.

Tenure Security Indicators

Indicators should be detailed in the "monitoring, evaluation, and reporting" section of an NDC.

Proportion of women and men with documented rights to land (%)

- Proportion (%) of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, a) with legally recognized documentation, and b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure (SDG Indicator 1.4.2: Secure tenure rights to land)
- Proportion (%) of rural women and men that indicate they have informal or formal documentation proving their rights to the land (LANDex Indicator 1B;[ii] based on Prindex)[iii]

Proportion of women and men perceive their tenure rights as secure (%)

- Proportion (%) of rural women and men that indicate they perceive their tenure rights to be secure (LANDex Indicator 1C; based on Prindex)

[ii] Global Land Governance Index (LANDex) is a global land governance index that aims to put people at the center of land data, democratizing land monitoring and building a data ecosystem that better captures the complex experience of land governance from diverse perspectives. It was developed in consultation with members and strategic partners of the International Land Coalition (ILC) and its standardized LANDex indicators allow members to generate globally comparable data and contribute to the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGTs), among others.
[iii] Prindex (which stands for the Global Property Rights Index) is a collaborative initiative between the Global Land Alliance and ODI, and tracks indicators of citizens' perception of the security of property rights.

- Proportion (%) of rural women and men living on community land who perceive their tenure rights to be secure (LANDex Indicator 3C; based on Prindex)
- Proportion (%) of rural women who perceive their tenure rights to be secure (LANDex Indicator 4C; based on Prindex)

Gender balance in ownership of agricultural land (%)
- Percentage (%) of people with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (out of total agricultural population), by sex (SDG Indicator 5a.1 - Women's ownership of agricultural land (a))
- Percentage (%) of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure (SDG Indicator 5a.1 - Women's ownership of agricultural land (b))

Legal framework(s) guaranteeing women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control (# of frameworks in place)
- Legal framework (including customary law) which guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control. (SDG Indicator 5.a.2; Please note this SDG Indicator measures the proportion of countries globally where such legal frameworks exist; at an individual country level, having such a legal framework (or frameworks) in place could be considered a relevant indicator to aspire to).

NDC drafters and implementers may also consider:
- Tracking sex-disaggregated data on land rights, particularly in the context of climate change interventions being mobilized by NDCs.
- Assessing tenure arrangements in high-priority ecosystems or lands being affected by climate interventions to inform tenure-sensitive climate interventions.
- Showcasing a pledge to ensure gender-equitable and inclusive governance or participation when it comes to NDC implementation.
- Establishing indicators that track the application of FPIC to safeguard the rights of Indigenous Peoples along with similar best practice safeguards for local communities, such as ensuring informed consultation and participation, thereby strengthening the underlying conditions for achieving desired climate action.
- Acknowledging and leveraging connections to the other Rio Conventions:
  - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)commitments to aligning its monitoring framework with the SDGs
  - UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target #22: "ensure participation in decision-making and access to justice and information related to biodiversity for all"

References

[1] Holland, Margaret B., Yuta J. Masuda, and Brian E. Robinson (editors). 2022. Land Tenure Security and Sustainable Development. Palgrave Macmillan Cham. Available at: https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-81881-4

[2] Bradley, A. and Fortuna, S. (2019). Collective Tenure Rights: Realizing the Potential for REDD+ and Sustainable Development. Information brief. FAO, Rome. https://redd.unfccc.int/documents/index.php?file=2234_37_collective_tenure_rights_fao.pdf.

[3] Stevens, C., Panfil, Y., Linkow, B., Hagopian, A., Mellon, C., Heidenrich, T., Kulkarni, N., Bouvier, I., Brooks, S., Lowery, S., and Green, J. (2020), Land and Development: A Research Agenda for Land and Resource Governance at USAID. Available at: https://tenuresecurity.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/USAID-RA_Final_3-16-2020-1.pdf

[4] Pacheco, Andrea and Carsten Meyer. 2022. "Land tenure drives Brazil's deforestation rates across socio-environmental contexts." Nature Communications (13: 5759). Available at: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-022-33398-3

[5] Benzeev, Raya, Sam Zhang, Marcelo Artur Rauber, Eric Vance, and Peter Newton. 2023. "Formalizing tenure of Indigenous lands improved forest outcomes in the Atlantic Forest of Brazil." PNAS Nexus (2:1). Available at: https://academic.oup.com/pnasnexus/article/2/1/pgac287/7005261

[6] Ding, Helen, Peter Veit, Allen Blackman, Erin Gray, Katie Reytar, Juan Carlos Altamirano, and Benjamin Hodgdon. 2016. "Climate Benefits, Tenure Costs: The economic case for securing Indigenous land rights in the Amazon." Available at: https://wri-indonesia.org/sites/default/files/Climate_Benefits_Tenure_Costs_Executive_Summary.pdf

[7] ILC. "How to secure land tenure for climate change mitigation and adaptation." Available at: https://learn.landcoalition.org/es/resources/secure-land-tenure-for-climate-change-mitigation-and-adaptation/

[8] Garnett, Stephen T., Neil D. Burgess, Julia E. Fa, Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares, Zsolt Molnár, Cathy Jean Robinson, James E. M. Watson, Kerstin Zander, Beau Austin, Eduardo S. Brondízio, Neil French Collier, Tom Duncan, Erle C Ellis, Hayley M. Geyle, Micha Jackson, Harry Jonas, Pernilla Malmer, Ben McGowan, Amphone Sivongxay, and Ian Leiper. 2018. "A spatial overview of the global importance of Indigenous lands for conservation." Nature Sustainability (1: 7). Available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/326424629_A_spatial_overview_of_the_global_importance_of_Indigenous_lands_for_conservation

[9] Landesa. "Links between Women's Land Tenure Security and Climate Action: An Evidence Brief." Available at: https://www.landesa.org/wp-content/uploads/Links-between-Womens-Land-Tenure-Security-and-Climate-Action-An-Evidence-Brief-Landesa.pdf

[10] UNCCD. 2024. "Business Case: Why invest in land tenure security?" Available at: https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2024-12/DRAFT_LandTenureBusinessCase_FOR%20CONSULTATION%20COP16.pdf

[11] Rakotonarivo, O. Sarobidy, Mirinda Rakotoarisoa, H. Manoa Rajaonarivelo, Stefana Raharijaona, Julia P.G. Jones, and Neal Hockley. 2023. "Resolving land tenure security is essential to deliver forest restoration." Communications Earth & Environment (4: 179). Available at: https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-023-00847-w

[12] Iliana Monterroso and Erin Sills. 2022. "Chapter 10 - Interaction of conditional incentives for ecosystem conservation with tenure security: multiple roles for tenure interventions." In Holland, Margaret, Yuta Masuda, and Brian Robinson (Eds.). Land Tenure and Sustainable Development. Palgrave Macmillan. Available at: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-81881-4_10

[13] IRENA. 2023. "Geopolitics of the energy transition: Critical materials." International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi. Available at: https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/irena_geopolitics_energy_transition_critical_materials_2023_1.pdf

[14] Mitchell, David and Darryn McEvoy. 2019. "Land tenure and climate vulnerability." UN-Habitat. Available at: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-06/un-habitat-gltn-land-and-climate-vulnerability-19-00693-web.pdf

[15] Klaus, Kathleen and Emma Elfversson. 2025. "Land tenure and climate resilience: household level evidence from Kenya." Report to the Expert Group for Aid Studies (EBA). Available at: https://uu.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1988638/FULLTEXT01.pdf

[16] Diep, Loan. 2023. "Climate adaptation through housing: examples of effective interventions for informal settlements." Habitat for Humanity. Available at: https://www.habitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/climate-adaptation-through-housing-report.pdf

[17] NOAA. 2025. "Nature-based solutions." Available at: https://coast.noaa.gov/states/fast-facts/natural-infrastructure.html

[18] P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, R. Slade, R. van Diemen, E. Haughey, J. Malley, M. Pathak, J. Portugal Pereira (eds.) Technical Summary, 2019. In: Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, E. Calvo Buendia, V. Masson-Delmotte, H.-O. Pörtner, D. C. Roberts, P. Zhai, R. Slade, S. Connors, R. van Diemen, M. Ferrat, E. Haughey, S. Luz, S. Neogi, M. Pathak, J. Petzold, J. Portugal Pereira, P. Vyas, E. Huntley, K. Kissick, M, Belkacemi, J. Malley, (eds.)]. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009157988.002

[19] van Straalen, Fennie, Thomas Hartmann, and John Sheehan (editors). 2018. Property Rights and Climate Change: Land use under changing environmental conditions. Routledge.

[20] Kukkonen, Markus and Linus Pott. 2019. "Why the fight against climate change depends on secure land tenure." World Bank Blogs. Available at: https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/sustainablecities/why-fight-against-climate-change-depends-secure-land-tenure

[21] FAO. 2002. "Land tenure and rural development: 4. Why land tenure should be considered in design of projects." Available at: https://www.fao.org/4/y4307e/y4307e06.htm

[22] Landesa. "Indigenous Peoples' and local communities land and resource rights in the age of carbon markets." Available at: https://www.landesa.org/wp-content/uploads/IP-LC-Carbon-Markets-2-pager_Nov-2023.pdf

[23] Fecht, Sarah. 2022. "Mining, land grabs and more: when decarbonization conflicts with human rights." Columbia Climate School: State of the Planet. Available at: https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2022/09/22/mining-land-grabs-and-more-when-decarbonization-conflicts-with-human-rights/

[24] FAO. 2022. "Technical Guide on the Integration of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Neutrality." Available at: https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/2e6a24a8-e922-4980-bf89-59d652f330c0

[25] Brown, Jennifer, Corey Creedon, and Nayna Jhaveri. 2025. "Linking women's land rights, climate action, and the UN Women Peace and Security Framework: A conceptual model and case studies from South Asia." Landesa. Available at: https://www.landesa.org/wp-content/uploads/Landesa-Report-on-WLR-Climate-and-WPS-Web.pdf

[26] Akwii, E., Brennan, G., Hannay, L., Dietrich Brauch, M., and N. Mardirossian, (2024). Incorporating Climate Considerations into Investment Assessment Processes: Guidance for National and Local Governments (New York: Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI). https://ccsi.columbia.edu/content/incorporating-climate-considerations-investment-assessment-processes-guidance-national-and.

[27] Land Portal. 2025. "From Land to Resilience: How Secure Tenure Strengthens Climate Response in East and Southern Africa." Available at: Available at: https://landportal.org/blog-post/2025/05/land-resilience-how-secure-tenure-strengthens-climate-response-east-and-southern.

Appendix A: Additional resources on land tenure

Technical guides and resources on land tenure

- [The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security](#) (FAO, 2012, rev. 2022)
- [Technical guide on the integration of the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests](#) (FAO & UNCCD, 2022)
- [IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land](#) (IPCC, 2019)
- [Governing Land for Women and Men: A technical guide to support the achievement of responsible gender-equitable governance of land tenure](#) (FAO, 2013)
- [Advancing Gender-Responsive Synergies across the Rio Conventions](#) (UN Women, 2024)
- [Land tenure and climate vulnerability: a world in which everyone enjoys secure land rights](#) (UN Habitat, 2019)

UNFCCC highlights on women's, local communities', and Indigenous Peoples' land rights

- [COP 23, Establishment of Gender Action Plan:](#) *"Noting that gender-responsive climate policy continues to require further strengthening in all activities concerning adaptation, mitigation and related means of implementation [...]as well as decision-making on the implementation of climate policies..."*
- [COP 26, Decision 20: Gender and climate change:](#) *"Recognizing that the full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership of women in all aspects of the UNFCCC process and in national- and local-level climate policy and action is vital for achieving long-term climate goals and inviting Parties to engage youth and Indigenous Peoples in climate action..."*
- [COP 26, Decision: 16, Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform](#): "*Acknowledging that Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, [...]as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity..."*

UN resources on inclusive land tenure and climate action

- [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP): *"the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples which derive from their political, economic, and social structures, and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories, and philosophies, especially their right to their lands, territories, and resources."*
- [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP):](#) This framework builds on the UNDRIP and other human rights frameworks related to land and includes numerous references to tenure.
- [Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), General Recommendations No. 34:](#) This Convention addresses the rights of rural women ([para. 56](#)); gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in a changing climate ([para. 37](#)); and the rights of Indigenous women and girls [para. 39](#)).
- [CEDAW General Recommendation No. 37](#): This Convention addresses discrimination in relation to women's access and rights to natural resources in the context of gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in a changing climate (para. 31(a)).
- [SDG 1.4](#), [SDG 5.a](#), and [SDG 13](#) promote inclusive tenure security and climate resilience and adaptive capacity.
- [The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22](#) recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including their land tenure, as critical to equitable and effective biodiversity conservation—a goal shared with nature-based climate solutions.

Appendix B: Examples of land tenure integration from existing NDCs

The following tables cover entry points for land tenure integration. For each, notable language from existing NDCs offers examples of integrating tenure.

Table 1: Tenure Security and Land Rights Recognition: commitments to formalize or protect land tenure, including for women, Indigenous Peoples, and other vulnerable groups.

Country	Notable Language
Brazil	*"incorporation of federal assets, using geotechnologies to promote land-title regularization, reduce and combat deforestation and protect territories of public and strategic interest to the country"* *"support for consolidating the management of conservation units and implementing the National Policy for Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous Lands (PNGATI)...supported 196 conservation units and 101 indigenous lands...strengthened the management of 52 million hectares"*
Nepal	*"Ensure land use changes are sustainable, and land ownership and rights are strengthened."*

Table 2: Safeguards in Carbon Markets/REDD+ and Renewable Energy: Mentions of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), benefit-sharing, or governance safeguards related to carbon trading, REDD+, and Renewable Energy.

Country	Notable Language
Guyana	*"Indigenous people own and manage some 14% of Guyana's lands...Guyana will strengthen its support for indigenous communities as they continue the stewardship of their lands...Indigenous peoples themselves, through the full application of the FPIC process...will decide whether or not to include their titled lands as part of Guyana's REDD+ programme."*
Liberia	*"Establish the prerequisite conditions and regulations to enable a REDD+ nesting framework by 2030, including (i) improve national systems to increase land tenure security by 2025 and (ii) clearly define carbon rights for relevant stakeholders in Liberia by 2030, (iii) Through the Liberia Land Authority, establish a defined land-use matrix for reporting purposes by 2030."*

Table 3: Land Use Planning and Governance: Development or revision of land use policies, zoning, or integrated planning that may affect tenure.

Country	Notable Language
Vanuatu	*"Vanuatu commits to prioritising development actions that minimise threats and incorporates climate solutions from the 'ridge to the reef' of island communities (National CCDRR Policy 7.4.5), by strengthening local authorities and municipal planning authorities to enact and enforce land use planning laws and regulations (NEPIP PO2.2)."*
Brazil	*"accelerate territorial and land-use planning to incorporate, digitize, update and facilitate access to the inventory of public and private lands...guarantee the protection of specially protected territorial spaces, including conservation units and Indigenous lands"*

Table 4: Gender Equity and Social Inclusion in Land Governance: Statements linking gender equality or social inclusion to land and resource rights.

Country	Notable Language
Nepal	*"By 2035, at least 60% of Nepal's forests will be under community-based management, ensuring 50% women representation and proportional representation of Dalits and Indigenous People in key posts. Fair and equitable benefits from sustainable forest management, watershed management, and biodiversity conservation will be ensured for Local Communities, women, and Indigenous People."*
Moldova	*"The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry could promote inclusive strategies by addressing barriers women face in accessing resources like training, credit, and land ownership."*